

REMARKS

New claims 11-16 are added so as more fully to claim patentable aspects of Applicant's invention. These claims contain no impermissible new matter. These claims are believed to be allowable for reasons analogous to why claims 1-10 are allowable.

Further, claims 5 and 6 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1-4 and 7-16 are the claims now pending in the Application.

Formal Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the priority document.

Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for reviewing and considering the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 19, 2000 and December 4, 2002.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 7 are amended to remove the term "high speed." This is not a narrowing amendment. No estoppel is created.

Therefore, claims 1 and 7 are now believed to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Fujiwara et al., U.S. Patent No. 6, 052,417. This rejection is traversed.

Among the problems recognized by Applicant's claimed invention is that in data compression systems such as the MPEG II compression system, when executing for example non-linear editing reproduction of the compressed data, the use of a fixed M structure of a GOP (group of pictures) can constrain the picture reproduction function. The value M corresponds to the number of pictures in a segment of a GOP. The present invention is concerned with managing coded data, for example, to realize a non-linear reproduction and a high-speed picture search. Therefore, according to an aspect of Applicant's claimed invention, during a reproduction of compressed image data using non-linear editing, such as for example a picture search, the M structure of a GOP is described in the compressed image data and used in the editing reproduction function.

For at least the following reasons, Applicant's claimed invention is neither anticipated by, nor rendered obvious from, the cited prior art. By way of example, independent claims 1 and 7 require executing a picture search using the control data, the memorized control data being a structure of a data file in which an interval includes an intra-coded frame and an inter-coded frame (or an inter-coded frame at the past time).

Fujiwara discloses a motion image coding apparatus adaptively controlling a reference frame interval. (Fujiwara, Abstract.) In particular, Fujiwara discloses that based on a prediction efficiency matrix, the value of M is varied. (Fujiwara, col. 14, lines 1-53.) In this vein, Fujiwara discloses that when the prediction efficiency is low, the value of M is reduced. (Fujiwara, *Id.*)

First, Fujiwara is directed to encoding motion image data by a motion image coding apparatus as discussed above. Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest executing a picture search by a compressed image data reproducing apparatus.

Further, Fujiwara does not disclose or suggest using the control data in executing a picture search, such that the control data is memorized as a structure of a data file in which an interval includes an intra-coded frame and an inter-coded frame in a GOP. In fact, Fujiwara belongs to the prior art because Fujiwara does not identify the problems recognized by Applicant's claimed invention (see above), let alone disclose or suggest the solutions provided thereby.

Claims 2 and 8 depend from independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, and thus incorporate novel and non-obvious features thereof. Thus, claims 2 and 8 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that independent claims 1 and 7 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Rejection of Claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Fujiwara and Kawasaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,343,153.

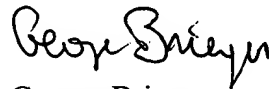
Claims 5 and 6 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

Similarly, the Examiner's objection to the drawings as not showing features claimed in claims 5 and 6, is moot.

Submitted herewith is a check for \$86.00 in payment for an additional independent claim.

For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the Application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment or the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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